

CLAIMS LISTING

This listing of the claims, if entered, replaces all prior versions of the claims in the present application.

1. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus for switching packets from a network, the apparatus comprising:
 - an ingress receiver that receives inbound packets from the network, said inbound packets being destined for an associated output queue;
 - a switch fabric coupled to receive said inbound packets from the ingress receiver;
 - and
 - an output traffic manager coupled to receive outbound packets from the switch fabric, wherein
 - the output traffic manager includes at least one queue,
 - the output traffic manager selectively stores outbound packets into a selected queue and selectively drops outbound packets when the selected queue is at a certain fullness level, and
 - approximately when the output traffic manager drops outbound packets or is about to drop said outbound packets, the output traffic manager communicates to the ingress receiver to drop inbound packets destined for the selected queue.
2. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the output traffic manager identifies at least a designation of imminently droppable or dropped outbound packets, and wherein the ingress receiver drops inbound packets based on the designation.
3. **(Original)** The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein said designation comprises a port address to the network.
4. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein the designation comprises a class of service.

5. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein the designation comprises a virtual private network.
6. **(Original)** The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the output traffic manager issues a cease drop command to the ingress receiver to discontinue inbound packet drop.
7. **(Original)** The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the ingress receiver discontinues inbound packet drop after a predetermined time.
8. **(Original)** The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the output traffic manager uses the switch fabric to communicate to the ingress receiver to drop inbound packets.
9. **(Original)** The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the output traffic manager uses a dedicated communications bus to communicate to the ingress receiver to drop inbound packets.
10. **(Original)** The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising a plurality of ingress receivers coupled to receive packets from the network and coupled to the switch fabric, wherein the output traffic manager communicates to the plurality of ingress receivers to drop inbound packets.
11. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the output traffic manager identifies a designation of imminently droppable or dropped outbound packets and wherein the plurality of ingress receivers drop inbound packets having the designation.
12. **(Original)** The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein the output traffic manager issues a cease drop command to the plurality of ingress receivers to discontinue inbound packet drop.
13. **(Original)** The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein the output traffic manager uses the switch fabric to communicate to the plurality of ingress receivers to drop

inbound packets and cease dropping inbound packets.

14. **(Original)** The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein the output traffic manager uses a dedicated communications bus to communicate to the plurality of ingress receivers to drop inbound packets and cease dropping inbound packets.

15. **(Currently Amended)** A method of reducing packet traffic through a switching fabric, the method comprising:

- receiving inbound packets from a network;
- transmitting each of said inbound packets to the switching fabric;
- selectively queuing outbound packets from the switching fabric;
- detecting imminent or active dropping of outbound packets due to a queue being full;
- signaling to drop inbound packets destined for said queue approximately when said outbound packets are dropped or about to be dropped; and
- dropping inbound packets destined for said queue.

16. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 15, wherein said signaling further comprises communicating a designation of the dropped outbound packets.

17. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 16, wherein dropping further comprises dropping inbound packets that are the same designation as the dropped outbound packets.

18. **(Original)** The method of Claim 16, wherein the designation comprises a port address to the network.

19. **(Original)** The method of Claim 16, wherein the designation comprises a class of service.

20. **(Original)** The method of Claim 16, wherein the designation comprises a virtual private network.

21. **(Original)** The method of Claim 15, further comprising issuing a cease drop command to discontinue inbound packet drop.

22. **(Original)** The method of Claim 15, further comprising discontinuing inbound packet dropping after a predetermined time.

23. **(Currently Amended)** A set of computer instructions in a tangible medium, said instructions for controlling a device to carry out the following steps:
receiving inbound packets from a network;
transmitting each of said inbound packets to a switching fabric;
selectively queuing outbound packets from the switching fabric;
detecting imminent or active dropping of outbound packets due to a queue being full;
signaling to drop inbound packets destined for said queue approximately when said outbound packets are dropped or about to be dropped; and
dropping inbound packets destined for said queue.

24. **(Previously Presented)** The set of computer instructions of Claim 23, wherein said signaling further comprises communicating a designation of the dropped outbound packets.

25. **(Previously Presented)** The set of computer instructions of Claim 24, wherein said dropping further comprises dropping inbound packets that are the same designation as the dropped outbound packets.

26. **(Previously Presented)** The set of computer instructions of Claim 24, wherein the designation comprises a port address to the network.

27. **(Previously Presented)** The set of computer instructions of Claim 24, wherein the designation comprises a class of service.

28. **(Previously Presented)** The set of computer instructions of Claim 24,

wherein the designation comprises a virtual private network.

29. **(Previously Presented)** The set of computer instructions of Claim 23, said instructions for further controlling the device to carry out the following:
issuing a cease drop command to discontinue inbound packet drop.

30. **(Previously Presented)** The set of computer instructions of Claim 23, said instructions for further controlling the device to carry out the following:
discontinuing inbound packet dropping after a predetermined time.

31. **(Currently Amended)** A system comprising:
means for receiving inbound packets from a network;
means for transmitting each of the inbound packets to a switching fabric;
means for selectively queuing outbound packets received from the switching fabric;
means for detecting imminent or active dropping of one or more outbound packets due to a queue being full;
means for signaling to drop one or more of the inbound packets destined for the queue approximately when said outbound packets are dropped or about to be dropped; and
means for dropping inbound packets destined for said queue.

32. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 31, wherein the means for signaling comprise means for communicating a designation of the one or more outbound packets.

33. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 32, wherein means for dropping comprise means for dropping inbound packets that are the same designation as the one or more outbound packets.

34. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 32, wherein the designation comprises a port address to the network.

35. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 32, wherein the designation comprises a class of service.

36. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 32, wherein the designation comprises a virtual private network.

37. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 31, further comprising:
means for issuing a cease drop command to discontinue inbound packet drop.

38. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 31, further comprising:
means for discontinuing inbound packet dropping after a predetermined time.